

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 04079 291528Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 /011 W
-----126830 291532Z /42

O 291353Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3713

CONFIDENTIAL DAMASCUS 4079

STADIS//////////

FOR NEA/ARN DRAPER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT SY US
SUBJ: SYRIAN JEWRY: MARRIAGE PROPOSALS

1. DELIVERED SECOND BATCH OF FOUR MARRIAGE PROPOSALS TO TOUTAH JUNE 29. HE SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED FIRST BATCH OF PROPOSALS WITH LT. COL. ABD AL-SAMAD WHO HAD POSED NO OBJECTION BUT HAD BUCKED ENTIRE AFFAIR TO COL. MESSAOUD. MESSAOUD LIKEWISE HAD REFUSED TO TAKE A POSITION BUT ADVISED TOUTAH TO SUBMIT ALL FIVE PROPOSALS EN BLOC IN AN APPLICATION DIRECTLY TO DIRECTOR OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE COL. ALI DUBA. TOUTAH SAID HE HAD DONE NOTHING FURTHER AS HE WISHED TO HAVE MY ADVICE. HE ALSO HAD NOT INFORMED GIRLS OR FAMILIES OF EXISTENCE OF PROPOSALS.

2. ADVISED TOUTAH I THOUGHTHE SHOULD PROCEED WITH SUBMISSION OF FORMAL APPLICATION TO COL. DUBA THROUGH ABD AL-SAMAD AND MESSAOUD. SAID THIS WAS ALSO ADVICE OF SHALOM FROM WHOM I HAD RECEIVED MESSAGE. TOUTAH SAID HE WOULD DO SO BUT WOULD SUBMIT APPLICATIONS ONLY FOR INITIAL FIVE PROPOSALS SINCE THESE WERE THE ONES HE HAD SHOWN TO ABD AL-SAMAD AND MESSAOUD. HE SAID HE WOULD INFORM ME WHAT ACTION TAKEN AT OUR JULY 4 RECEPTION WHICH HE PROMISED TO ATTEND. I ALSO ADVISED HIM

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TO INFORM GIRLS AND FAMILIES BUT AM DOUBTFUL THAT HE WILL FOR A FEW DAYS YET. HE CONTINUES TO BE UNCOMFORTABLE ABOUT THE WHOLE AFFAIR.

3. TOUTAH SAID PASSPORTS WERE ISSUED THIS WEEK TO TWO ELDERLY JEWISH COUPLES TO VISIT RELATIVES IN EUROPE. NORMAL BOND OF 25,000 SYRIAN POUNDS PER PERSON WAS REQUIRED.

SEVERAL APPLICATIONS TO TRAVEL FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT, HOWEVER, HAD BEEN TURNED DOWN BY MESSAOUD ON GROUNDS THAT ADEQUATE MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR ILLNESSES IN QUESTION WAS AVAILABLE IN SYRIA. LIKEWISE, AND THIS IS BAD NEWS, MESSAOUD STAMPED "PENDING" ON APPLICATION OF BUCAI WIDOW AND CHILDREN AND ADVISED TOUTAH THAT THEIR CASE WOULD TAKE SOME TIME TO RESOLVE AND HE SHOULD NOT PRESS IT. AS FOR ACKMAN, TOUTAH SAID HE CONTINUES TO WAIVER BETWEEN GIRL TO WHOM HE HAS PROPOSED AND OTHER(S) WHO HAVE CAUGHT HIS EYE. TOUTAH CHARACTERIZED HIM AS "UNSTABLE."

5. TOUTAH BELIEVES MESSAOUD WILL BE IN DAMASCUS DURING SHALOM VISIT.
PELLETREAU

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JEWS, COMMUNITY RELATIONS, MARRIAGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 22 May 2009
Decapton Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DAMASC04079
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770232-0382
Format: TEL
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977068/aaaaagxp.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 09083a83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2236719
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYRIAN JEWRY: MARRIAGE PROPOSALS
TAGS: PINT, SOCI, SY, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/09083a83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009